from April 1, 2008. However, after reporting of alleged irregularities on the part of auditors of M/s Satyam Computers, RBI have not approved appointment of PWC as statutory auditors in the scheduled commercial banks from the financial year 2009-10.

(e) The provisions of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 and the Regulations/Rules framed thereunder are applicable to members and firms of chartered accountants registered with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). The Act, ibid, does not provided for framing of rules or regulation for governing the services of multi-national accounting firms. Therefore, the multinational accounting firms are outside the purview of the ethical and regulatory framework of the ICAI.

Expansion of air services during the Eleventh Plan

*176. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expansion of air services during the Eleventh Plan is going on according to any road map or there are some hardships;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether priorities have been fixed in the Plan by expanding it to the entire nation;

(d) if so, the details of these priorities for the rest of the Plan period;

(e) whether services of all airlines have been included depending on their capacity;

(f) whether there is any high powered Committee to decide about it; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) In so far as expansion of air services, the Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve a better regulation of Air Transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

(c) to (g): Does not arise.

Vacant posts in CHCs

*177. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of percentage of sanctioned posts of specialists lying vacant in various Community Health Centres (CHCs) throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of large shortfall of male health workers, the family welfare and health programmes at CHCs are affected; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps Government proposes to take in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, As per the Rural Health Statistics Bulletin of March 2008, overall, about 48.57% (4068 vacant out of 8376 sanctioned posts) of sanctioned posts of specialists at CHCs are vacant. Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), states are compensating the gaps by positioning specialists on contract and as on date, 2344 specialists have been positioned in this manner.

There is indeed a large shortfall in number of male health workers available in the public health system. Many states have not sanctioned sufficient posts of the MPW (M) and many of the sanctioned posts continue to be vacant for long periods since no fresh recruitment is undertaken by the respective state. Various programmes of health and family welfare get affected by this shortage.

The Government has launched the National Rural Health Mission since April, 2005, to undertake comprehensive rejuvenation of the health delivery system in all the states. The critical role of MPW(M) has received focussed attention under the NRHM. A precondition has been imposed under NRHM that only those Sub Centres shall be allowed to position the second contractual ANM funded under NRHM where the MPW (M) is in position. Further, the NRHM is supporting the rejuvenation of the MPW(M) training schools in the states. In some of the districts with high malaria incidence in high focus states, MPW(W) have been recruited under the NRHM budget also.

Mortality rate

*178. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the highest under-five mortality rate in the world;

(b) if so, the details of child deaths reported in the country, for the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether his Ministry has made assessment of the reasons for the high mortality rate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Under Five Mortality rate is 72 per 1000 live births in India. As per the State of the World's Children UNICEF Report, 2009, India ranks as 49th out of 191 countries in the descending order of the Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR).